

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

April 25, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 De Grood in Custody

What should the punishment be for the person who killed 5 university students? This first news story is about the killer of 5 young university students.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. psychiatric assessment	a) good enough for something; able to
	2. several	b) people have one of these to remember and show love for someone that has died.
	3. fit	c) the type of lawyer who tries to protect someone
	4. funeral	d) when someone is kept in jail until he or she goes to court
	5. victims	e) someone who has been attacked or murdered
	6. custody	f) to judge or decide if someone has a mental illness
	7. defense lawyer	g) money paid to get someone out of jail and wait for the court date at home, not in jail.
	8. bail	h) many

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

stand trial: to go to court.

house party: a party held at someone's house.

Now listen to the first story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: What Happened When? Put these events in order by writing in numbers: 1 for the first event, 2 for the second etc.

Order of Event	Events
	De Grood goes to court in one month
	There is a house party to celebrate the last day of classes
	De Grood goes into custody

Listen again. Which events will happen in the future (F)? Which ones are in the past (P)?

Future or Past?	Events
	22 year old accused of murder
	Asks for bail
	Funerals for all 5 victims
	Psychiatric assessment for Matthew De Grood

Discussion questions: Do you think Matthew De Grood should be allowed out of jail on bail in the future? Do you think people with mental problems should go to jail or the mental hospital if they murder someone?

News story #2 Get in Line

What will happen to your heart, kidneys, eyes and other organs when you die? Would you like to give them to someone who needs them? This news story is about organ donations in Alberta.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

on-line (on the internet)	registry (place of registration)	donation (something that is given)
organ (part of body, e.g. heart, lung)	renew (make new)	increase (to go up)
tissue (parts the body is made of, e.g. cells)	decrease (to go down)	expand (make bigger)

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

driver's license: The official card that legally allows people to drive.

waiting list: A list of people who have to wait for something that they want or need.

decade: ten years

1. Sick Albertans need more _____ and _____ donations because there are not enough.
2. An _____ in people who give their organs and tissue away will help many sick people.
3. My license has expired and I need to go _____ it.
4. There are fewer people donating their organs nowadays and this _____ in donations is a problem.
5. Giving a _____ of your organs to those who need them is a generous thing for you to do.
6. You can fill your name out on the _____ if you are interested in giving your organs away.
7. You can find more information about this story _____.
8. We need to _____ the list of people who are giving their organs away.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Why did the Alberta government decide to start an online Organ and Tissue Donation Registry?
2. How much have the donation rates gone down in the past 10 years?
3. How does the government plan to expand the registry?
4. What do people have to go and renew?
5. How many people are on the waiting lists for organ and tissue transplants?

Discussion questions: Why doesn't everyone donate their organs when they die? Do you think the Alberta government's plan to expand the registry will help increase the number of people who will donate their organs?

News story #3 Lost in the Mail

Do you send your friends and family letters by mail? This story is about a letter that got lost in the mail for many years and how it finally made it to the person it was sent to. Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1. posted	a) broken not perfect
	2. damaged	B) cute sweet
	3. former	c) wish it didn't happen feel bad
	4. adorable	d) understand become aware
	5. sincerely	e) put in the mail sent
	6. regret	f) earlier before
	7. realize	g) honestly truly

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

mail-stream – the collection of the letters and packages that Canada Post has
entrusted – given with trust

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The letter that was posted got lost for 54 years.
2. ____ The letter was mailed from Lethbridge and arrived in Calgary.
3. ____ Mrs. Tingle's sister posted the lost letter all those years ago.
4. ____ Canada Post's note says that they were sorry the letter was late.
5. ____ Canada Post's note says that the nine-year-old girl is adorable.
6. ____ The lost letter was in damaged condition when it finally arrived to Mrs. Tingle.

Discussion Questions: Do you think e-mail will totally replace the use of regular mail to send letters in the future? What are the good and bad parts of using e-mail versus regular mail?

Language Focus: Pronouns

Pronouns take the place of a noun phrase. Today's lesson will focus on personal pronouns. Personal subject pronouns include: he, she, it, they, we, I, and you. Personal object pronouns include: me, you, him, her, it, us, you, and them.

1. These pronouns can take the place of a noun phrase within the same sentence: **E.g. Matthew de Grood will have a psychiatric assessment to see whether he is fit to stand trial.** - The pronoun "he" in the second part of the sentence refers to the proper noun "Matthew de Grood" in the first part of the sentence.

2. Or, this pronoun usage can occur across sentences (where the noun phrase is stated in one sentence and the pronoun is used in another sentence): **E.g. The 22-year old is accused in last week's deaths of five young people. They were stabbed to death while at a house party for the last day of classes.** – Here, the pronoun "They" is referring to the noun phrase "five young people".

A) Now, look at the examples below and fill in the chart with the correct noun or noun phrase that each pronoun is referring to. *These examples are taken from the listening.

Example sentences with pronoun highlighted:	Noun the pronoun refers to:
1. The Alberta government has started an on-line Organ and Tissue Donation Registry. It's to increase organ and tissue donor rates, which have dropped by nearly 40 per cent in the past decade.	
2. Plans to expand the registry include making it available when people renew their driver's licenses.	
3. A Calgary woman received a letter in the mail 45 years after it was posted.	
4. Tingle shared the letter with her sister,	
5. The note from Canada Post read, in part: "Dear customer, we sincerely regret that your mail item is damaged. It was found in this condition in the mail stream.	
6. De Grood will stay in custody at the Southern Alberta Forensic Psychiatric Centre. Defence lawyer Allan Fay says, if he does ask for bail, it won't be for several months.	

B) Next, let's look at pronoun usage the other way. Look at this example sentence, in which the noun phrase "The letter" is highlighted, and identify all the pronouns that refer to this noun phrase:

The letter was mailed in 1969 from Lethbridge. It was recently delivered to Anne Tingle's new home in Calgary, with an apology from Canada Post for the damaged condition. It also had a 6-cent stamp on it.

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	APRIL 25 - WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of April 25 th .	0:00
Story 1	Matthew de Grood will have a psychiatric assessment to see whether he is fit to stand trial. The 22-year-old is accused in last week's deaths of five young people. They were stabbed to death while at a house party for the last day of classes. De Grood will stay in custody at the Southern Alberta Forensic Psychiatric Centre. Defence lawyer Allan Fay says, if he does ask for bail, it won't be for several months. De Grood will be back in court in one month. Funerals have now been held for all five victims.	0:06
Story 2	The Alberta government has started an on-line Organ and Tissue Donation Registry. It's to increase organ and tissue donor rates, which have dropped by nearly 40 per cent in the past decade. Plans to expand the registry include making it available when people renew their driver's licenses. Hundreds of Albertans are on waiting lists for organ and tissue transplants.	0:50
Story 3	A Calgary woman received a letter in the mail 45 years after it was posted. The letter was mailed in 1969 from Lethbridge. It was recently delivered to Anne Tingle's new home in Calgary, with an apology from Canada Post for the damaged condition. It also had a 6-cent stamp on it. The letter was addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Tingle" and had the correct street name for the family's former home, but the house number was wrong, and it had no city listed. Tingle realized it was from her sister, from when she was nine. She says she had no idea how the letter got lost and how it finally reached her at her current address. Tingle shared the letter with her sister, who "couldn't get over how adorable she was." The note from Canada Post read, in part: "Dear customer, we sincerely regret that your mail item is damaged. It was found in this condition in the mail stream. We realize your mail is important to you and we are always concerned when mail entrusted to our care is damaged."	1:22

Answer keys

News story #1 – Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
f	1. psychiatric assessment (noun)	a) good enough for something
h	2. several (adjective)	b) people have one of these to remember and show love for someone that has died.
a	3. fit (adjective)	c) the type of lawyer who tries to protect someone
b	4. funeral (noun)	d) when someone is kept from leaving jail until he or she goes to court
e	5. victims (noun)	e) someone who has been attacked or murdered
d	6. custody (noun)	f) To judge or decide if someone has a mental illness or problem with his or her mind.
c	7. Defense lawyer (noun)	g) money paid to get someone out of jail and wait for the court date at home, not in jail.
g	8. bail	h) many

Order of Event (1,2,3)	Events
3	De Grood goes to court in one month
1	There is a house party to celebrate the last day of classes
2	De Grood goes into custody

Future or Past?	Events
Past	22 year old accused of murder
Future	Asks for bail
Past	Funerals for all 5 victims
Future	Psychiatric assessment for Matthew De Grood.

News story #2 - Vocabulary

1. Sick Albertans need more **organ** and **tissue** donations because there are not enough.
2. An **increase** in people who give their organs and tissue away will help many sick people.
3. My license has expired and I need to go **renew** it.
4. There are fewer people donating their organs nowadays and this **decrease** in donations is a problem.
5. Giving a **donation** of your organs to those who need them is a generous thing for you to do.

6. You can fill your name out on the **registry** if you are interested in helping.
7. You can find more information about this story **online**.
8. We need to **expand** the list of people who are giving their organs away.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

1. Why did the Alberta government decide to start an online Organ and Tissue Donation Registry?
To increase organ and tissue donor rates.
2. How much have the donation -rates gone down in the past 10 years? **40 %**
3. How does the government plan to expand the registry? **By making it available when people renew their driver's license.**
4. What do people have to go and renew? **Their driver's licenses**
5. How many people are on the waiting lists for organ and tissue transplants? **Hundreds**

News story 3 - Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
e	1. posted	a) broken not perfect
a	2. damaged	b) cute sweet
f	3. former	c) wish it didn't happen feel bad
c	4. adorable	d) understand become aware
g	5. sincerely	e) put in the mail sent
c	6. regret	f) earlier before
d	7. realize	g) honestly truly

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. **F** The letter that was posted got lost for 54 years.
2. **T** The letter was mailed from Lethbridge and arrived in Calgary.
3. **T** Mrs. Tingle's sister posted the lost letter all those years ago.
4. **F** Canada Post's note says that they were sorry the letter was late.

5. F Canada Post's note says that the nine-year-old girl is adorable.
6. T The lost letter was in damaged condition when it finally arrived to Mrs. Tingle.

Language Focus: Pronouns

A)

<i>Example sentence</i>	<i>Noun the pronoun refers to</i>
1. The Alberta government has started an on-line Organ and Tissue Donation Registry. <u>It's</u> to increase organ and tissue donor rates, which have dropped by nearly 40 per cent in the past decade.	The Organ and Tissue Donation Registry
2. Plans to expand the registry include making it available when people renew <u>their</u> driver's licenses.	people
3. A Calgary woman received a letter in the mail 45 years after <u>it</u> was posted.	A letter
4. Tingle shared the letter with <u>her</u> sister,	Tingle
5. The note from Canada Post read, in part: "Dear customer, <u>we</u> sincerely regret that your mail item is damaged. <u>It</u> was found in this condition in the mail stream.	We – Canada Post It – The mail item
6. De Grood will stay in custody at the Southern Alberta Forensic Psychiatric Centre. Defence lawyer Allan Fay says, if <u>he</u> does ask for bail, it won't be for several months.	De Grood

B) The letter was mailed in 1969 from Lethbridge. **It** was recently delivered to Anne Tingle's new home in Calgary, with an apology from Canada Post for the damaged condition. **It** also had a 6-cent stamp on **it**.